

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO HONDA FOR OPENING PLANT IN GREENSBURG, INDIANA

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, within the hour, the people of Indiana will hear the news firsthand: 2,000 jobs and a \$550 million Honda plant is coming to Greensburg, Indiana, in the heart of the Sixth Congressional District. Thanks to the leadership of Governor Mitch Daniels, Mayor Frank Manus and other State and local officials, Honda will soon break ground on a vehicle plant that will produce 200,000 automobiles in southern Indiana every year.

Through its decision today, Honda has chosen to partner with the people of my congressional district. While many deserve credit for seeing these 2,000 jobs come to this city of 10,200 citizens, Honda's decision today is mostly a reflection of its confidence in the hardworking people of Indiana. Honda said yes to Indiana and yes to the skill, integrity and ethic of working Hoosiers.

On behalf of the people of the Sixth Congressional District, I rise to express my profound gratitude and best wishes to Honda for providing this extraordinary economic boost for the citizens of Greensburg, Indiana, and the surrounding area.

WAG THE DOG

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this administration is angry that the media leaked the story about its snooping into the bank records of millions of Americans. Its supporters in Congress want to formally condemn the New York Times. What a bunch of baloney.

It is about time the media did its job of protecting the public interest. If the media and this Congress had shown some independence from the party line of this administration, the claims of WMDs would have been dismissed, and the fact there was no connection between Iraq and 9/11 would have been well-established, and we would not have gone to war against Iraq.

A few years ago, a movie, "Wag the Dog," told of how a fictional U.S. administration misused its communications power to create phony stories to put this Nation into an international conflict. This administration has not only wagged the dog in Iraq, but with the help of its fabricators at the Rendon and Lincoln groups, it has wagged a whole kennel.

In a free society, the media cannot be a lap dog of any administration. The first amendment says, Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of the press, except of course under this administration.

HAMAS

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Islamic extremists from the group Hamas attacked an Israeli army post on Sunday, killing two Israeli soldiers and holding hostage a 19-year-old corporal. Hamas militants called for the release of Palestinians from Israeli prisons in exchange for information on the soldier.

Mr. Speaker, Hamas's attempt at life-or-death blackmail once again shows its true colors. They are not a legitimate party promoting the democratic process. They are a terrorist organization, plain and simple.

The American taxpayers must never be asked to fund this terrorist organization that seeks to destroy the very existence of its democratic neighbor, Israel. We are in the business of eliminating terrorist funding, not authorizing it.

Our mission is to promote the spread of democracy in the Middle East. We must stand beside Israel, our most trusted ally in the Middle East, as they face down this terrorist organization in government clothing.

Mr. Speaker, democracy and terrorism cannot coexist, and I am putting my money on democracy.

MIXED SIGNALS ON IRAQ

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, we are getting mixed signals from the administration on the future of the Iraq war.

Last weekend, General Myers laid out a plan for withdrawal. Then, yesterday, General Peter Schoomaker, the Army Chief of Staff, said, "It's my belief that we're going to be in Iraq for a long time. It's open-ended."

An open-ended commitment with an open wallet? Really? After 3½ years, 2,500 lives, nearly a half a trillion dollars, 18,000 wounded, the American people deserve better than an open-ended commitment with an open wallet.

How about a strategy for success? The President has said, when the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down. How does that happen? The Iraqi people have a constitution. They have had an election. Now, they have 325,000 of the members of the Iraqi security force trained. What is the standard for success, let alone the strategy for success?

The American people desperately need a strategy, not slogans. We do not know because the administration does not know. They have no plan, and the American people are left with an endless occupation. What they are talking about is 5 more years and \$500 billion more.

It is time for a new direction for Iraq. It is time for a new direction for America.

FREEDOM AND SECURITY, NOT POLITICS, WILL BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend and just now on the floor, we have seen leading Democrats spin themselves into the ground when reports came out that the general in charge of operations was making plans to lower the number of American troops in Iraq.

Democrats seem more interested in who gets the political credit for the troops coming home than allowing themselves to achieve their mission. They see bogeymen around every corner.

In fact, the Senator from my home State of Michigan said that he knows the administration intends to withdraw troops in advance of the election simply for political gain.

Well, if they actually believe that the President is going to bring the troops home, why all these resolutions calling for a timetable for a withdrawal? Do they fear a withdrawal that happens due to the heroism of our troops and not Democratic political maneuvering?

The policy which has been backed by both Houses of Congress is that, as the Iraqis are increasingly able to stand up and provide for their own security, our forces will be able to stand down and return home with their mission accomplished.

Arbitrary timelines and calls for immediate withdrawal are nothing more than political posturing that will not change conditions on the ground.

God bless our troops.

MTM ENERGY WEEK

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, high fuel costs are having a devastating effect on family budgets. Since President Bush took office, gas prices have risen 162 percent to almost \$3 a gallon.

Today, I am releasing a report that shows that Massachusetts' families will pay nearly \$400 more for gasoline this summer than they did last summer.

Congress must start to address this energy crisis. This week, I will introduce legislation to give tax credits to consumers that buy flex-fuel vehicles. Flex fuel costs 30 to 60 cents less per gallon than conventional gasoline, and it is better for the environment.

Flex-fuel vehicles emit 25 percent less greenhouse gases, 40 percent less carbon monoxide and 80 percent less cancer-causing sulfates.

Mr. Speaker, this is a no-brainer. Why would anyone oppose paying less and breathing cleaner air?

As we approach the Fourth of July, Congress should declare our independence from foreign oil by passing this

commonsense legislation to help lower fuel prices.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS IMPROVE AMERICA'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to strengthening America's energy policies and lowering gas prices for families throughout our country. From supporting legislation to build more refineries to approving environmentally safe energy production, we have proposed commonsense initiatives that will provide a long-term solution to our energy crisis.

While Democrats may demagogue about any positive proposals, House Republicans continue to act on real reforms that will increase America's energy independence. Tomorrow, the House will consider the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act, introduced by Congressman BOBBY JINDAL, which empowers States to protect their coastlines by restricting energy production to the deep seas more than 100 miles away from our shore. Additionally, this bill allows more of America's massive energy resources to be produced on the Outer Continental Shelf.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for an increase in the minimum wage.

We should show the Nation that we understand it has been too long since we increased the minimum wage. We should be ashamed it takes a full day's pay at minimum wage to fill up your car at the pump.

Congress has not raised the \$5.15 minimum wage since 1997. We are approaching a decade since we have addressed perhaps the most important issue for hardworking, low-income Americans.

This Congress has given billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, and we should help people who are working to make ends meet.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know it has gotten to be a habit. I would like to raise a point of order that a lot of Members from the Republican side seem to come up and stand at the podium when we are speaking, and I would hope we would not do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. Members should not traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has given billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. We should help people who are working to make ends meet.

Under this administration, costs for everything are up. Housing, health care and college tuition have all become more expensive and continue to rise. Yet a minimum wage earner can at best earn \$10,700 a year.

I look forward to voting on a minimum wage increase in the near future, and I hope our leadership has the courage to bring this important issue to the floor. Let's increase the minimum wage now.

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SUPPORT THE WARN ACT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. First of all, Mr. Speaker, let me apologize to my colleague. I have been doing this for 9 years, and I am just trying to be efficient. That is all.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, along with my colleagues, Representatives WYNN, BONO, ENGLISH, and MELANCON, I introduced the House version of the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act, also known as the WARN Act. The Emergency Alert System has not kept pace with our increasingly wireless and mobile society.

The WARN Act will help bring the Emergency Alert System into the 21st century by ensuring that, regardless of where an individual is or what kind of communication technologies they are using, they will receive a life-saving alert. Some examples of instances where they would receive an alert would be in response to all threats to public safety, including natural disasters, man-made accidents, and terrorist incidents.

The act also establishes a network for transmission of alerts across a broad variety of communication technologies, including wireless communication devices like cell phones and BlackBerrys; also things such as the Internet, digital, analog, cable, and satellite television, and satellite and terrestrial radio, as well as nontraditional media such as the public warning sirens.

This is in response to the recommendations of the White House on the Katrina report. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting the WARN Act.

REPUBLICAN DO-NOTHING CONGRESS REFUSES TO ADDRESS OUR NATION'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this week, the House Republican leadership will once again leave town for another recess without seriously addressing our Nation's energy crisis. House Republicans have trumpeted this week as Energy Week. You would think if they were really serious about tackling this crisis we would spend the entire week debating a comprehensive energy proposal that would end our reliance on foreign oil and foster new energy technologies.

Instead, we get more of the same from the Republican leadership. Energy Week has turned into Energy Day, a debate on one bill that would allow oil and gas companies to drill on the Outer Continental Shelf off both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Drilling off our coasts is not only environmentally and economically risky, but it is not possible for another 7 years. How is that supposed to help consumers today? The answer is that it is not.

House Republicans are only interested in lining the pocketbooks of the oil and gas companies. If House Republicans were serious about addressing our energy crisis, the House would debate my legislation that would reduce the price of a barrel of oil by \$20. Instead, we spend 1 day on a bill that does nothing to assist Americans with the high cost of energy.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota, as it celebrates its sesquicentennial.

In 1856, three settlements along the Mississippi River formed the City of St. Cloud. Bolstered by the area's rich granite deposits, St. Cloud's local economy grew quickly, and it remains today the largest metropolitan area in central Minnesota.

Home of St. Cloud State University and nearby St. John's University and the College of Saint Benedict, as well as a multitude of parks, community organizations, and thriving businesses, St. Cloud has built a reputation as a positive place for families and a community that works together.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for St. Cloud, a city that has brought 150 years of pride to the State of Minnesota.

REPUBLICAN RX DRUG PLAN IS ACTUALLY DRIVING UP PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)